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Office of Information Security Newsletter

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Statistics have demonstrated that up to 80% of all information security incidents and system failures occur as a result of (un)intentional improper acts by authorized users.

OCTOBER DECLARED NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Information Security is part of everyone's job at the State of Nevada. It is vital that you do your best to protect the State's information by understanding the basic concepts of information security, and applying them to your workplace. State computer users (elected and appointed officials, employees, and contractors) are the first line of defense against security incidents, just as awareness is the first step in safeguarding the State's information assets.

October has been declared National Cyber Security Awareness Month and in conjunction with this declaration the Office of Information Security has released the online Nevada Information Security Training.

The Security Awareness Training Application went into Pilot during the month of September. DoIT and DOP were involved in the Pilot Program and users provided valuable feedback to the program.

This security training takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. There are 10 modules with a non-graded quiz question at the end of each module and 25 final questions. The training is designed to educate state employees on the vulnerabilities and of the positive actions they can take to help protect the state and its information.

The online training is located at <http://infosec.nv.gov>. If you would like to take the training please review the user guide before logging on to the training session.

DISASTER RECOVERY

What is a disaster? Often times it is an unforeseen and sudden event that causes great damage, destruction and human suffering. This can be caused by:

Fire
Earthquake
Tornado
Hurricane
Terrorism
Blizzard
Or any number of things

Is your agency prepared for such a disaster? Are your computer systems recoverable? What steps have you taken to minimize the downtime?

On February 6, 2005, the Governor signed an Executive Order to ensure Agencies take the necessary steps in answering those questions. This order states, that all State agencies be required to complete a plan to recover their critical business systems and minimize the downtime in providing services to the citizens of the State of Nevada. These plans are to be completed by February 2006 or sooner.

The purpose of the Office of Information Security Disaster Recovery Unit is to assist and work with state agencies to address and develop backup and recovery plans for IT systems to minimize the effects of a disaster; so the agency can maintain or quickly resume mission-critical functions. Our goal is specifically, to help an agency deal with a potential disaster, as well as focus on technical disaster prevention.

The Disaster Recovery Unit can also provide technical support to agencies in the event an incident or disaster occurs that affects IT systems supporting critical functions that become unusable or non-functional. We accomplish this support by offering coordination between the affected agencies IT services to include: vendors, contractors, and other State technical resources recovery facilities.

The unit works directly with State agency administrators, IT managers, agency staff, federal agencies, vendors, contractors and system end-users to provide IT Disaster Recovery Planning guidance, administration, consultation, management and oversight.

Additionally, the unit focuses on staying abreast of all aspects of technology, security laws (both federal and state), and project management methodologies to ensure that Disaster Recovery Plans are consistent with State standards as well as the level of threats, risks and vulnerabilities of the agency.

*Do you have your
Disaster Recovery Plan
ready? Be Prepared!*



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